

## State of Connecticut

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

STATE CAPITOL HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

September 1, 2006

The Honorable Susan F. Cogswell, Commissioner Department of Insurance P.O. Box 816 Hartford, Connecticut 06142-0816

Dear Commissioner Cogswell:

As Stamford's legislative delegation we are writing to express our concerns regarding the Department of Insurance's approval of Andover Companies' guideline that allows the insurer to refuse to renew any policy if the insured does not have hurricane shutters on buildings located within three-quarters of a mile of Long Island Sound.

We believe this underwriting standard is unfair to the constituents in our district who own coastal homes by making them adhere to unreasonable insurance qualification standards within 45 days or lose their coverage.

This type of guideline would also be unprecedented. A recent survey of hurricane and windstorm insurance conducted by the Insurance Information Institute did not find a single state along the east coast where an insurer required shutters as a criteria for issuing an insurance policy.

This guideline also seems unnecessarily financially burdensome. While shutters may help protect against flying objects in gale force winds, it does not offer much more substantial protection to justify the cost, which is estimated to be upwards of around \$100,000 per home.

For these reasons we urge your immediate reversal of this approval and look forward to hearing from you.

Carlo Leone

State Representative, 148th District

Christel Truglia

State Representative, 145<sup>th</sup> District

Andrew McDonald

State Senator, 27<sup>th</sup> District

William Nickerson

State Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District

Jim Shapiro State Representative, 144<sup>th</sup> District

State Representative, 147<sup>th</sup> District

State Representative, 146<sup>th</sup> District

Livvy Floren

State Representative, 149<sup>th</sup> District